

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
June 5, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Michelle Durocher, Janine White, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Mike Nonni, and Susan Chapnick of the Commission. Catherine Garnett, of the Commission, was not present. Also present were Bruce Whetle, Christine Deshler, Brad Barber, Lydia Cummings, Elynn Monks, Jen Ryan, Mike DiMartino, Tobey Nemsee, Tina Jacas, Tami and Gary Kalajian, Clarissa Rowe, Brian Rehrig, Karen Johnson and Steve Prowten.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

The Commission was asked by an Licensed Site Professional (LSP) for a **BP gas station** in Belmont (RTN 3-29709) to approve a MESA permit for an EPA discharge permit to release treated groundwater to the storm drains leading to Spy Pond. The Commission is reviewing the Massachusetts Contingency Plan documents but still has many questions. Ms. J. White noticed that the calculations for the discharge rate were incorrect. Ms. Chapnick commented that while they are testing and treating for petroleum contamination, other contaminants could be present (since this is an urban area with a long history) that are not being looked for. Mr. Barber reported Bill Bykamp of the Spy Pond Committee thought this discharge would not be much worse than what Spy Pond is already receiving in the watershed, but asked what recourse we might have if some problem was found later. Mr. Barber was in a neutral position. The Commission will recommend to the Town Manager to hold off signing this permit until a more thorough review can be made (potentially as a Notice of Intent). Ms. Beckwith will draft a memo to the LSP and copy the Town Manager.

Mr. and Mrs. Kalajian presented their request for a Certificate of Compliance for a house addition at **22 Nourse St.** Ms. Beckwith conducted a site walk on 6/3/14 and concurred that they are in full compliance with their permit. DWhite/Connors motioned to issue the Certificate of Compliance; motion passed unanimously.

8pm **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination** – Lot E Dothan St

Tom Hughes, the peer review consultant, concluded his field inspection and produced a report on 5/16/14. The report included groundwater observations and concluded that the wetland was more extensive than that shown in the applicant's submission. The applicant's consultant notified the Commission on 6/3/14 that due to increased costs and time constraints, the applicant wishes to withdraw their application.

Connors/DWhite motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm **Notice of Intent** – Mystic River Oil spill and cleanup

Clean Harbors asked for a continuance in order to have more time to respond in writing to the Commission's 5/7/14 questions.

Chapnick/Coleman motioned to continue the hearing to 6/19 at 8:15pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm **Notice of Intent** – Wright St paving

Mr. DiMartino presented the project to pave a section of Wright St from Summer St towards Huntington. He also owns three houses, that he recently redeveloped from two house lots. The pavement will be 21 feet wide, and drain away from the wetland. Each of the three new house lots have stormwater drainage treatments.

Ms. J. White asked which of the stormwater exemptions are appropriate for this work. The Section C. pg. 6-7, #3 seems to be the best fit.

Connors/D.White motioned to approve the project with the condition to clean out the catchbasins at the conclusion of the work; motion passed unanimously.

8:45pm **Discussion** – Symmes, Summer St. woods

Clarissa Rowe began the meeting by announcing her retirement from the Arlington Land Trust (ALT). Jen Ryan will be the new director. Ms. J. White, Mr. Nonni and Ms. Rowe toured the site and then Ms. Rowe composed a memo of the remaining concerns. There are invasive plants (worst of which is Japanese Knotweed), the utility corridor is growing in but some areas of grass still need to get established.

One or two members from each the ALT and the Conservation Commission should form a working group, who will interact with the incoming maintenance team for the site. They will also interact with the new Land Stewards group, which is to be coordinated through Karen Johnson, who lives right next to the new development.

The Japanese Knotweed needs to be treated with herbicides, multiple times per season, wicked onto the cut stems. There will be an annual arborists report, every December, but also a first one to be completed within a month or two that will be the baseline report for the site.

The public parking spaces still need to be marked. The bounds still need to be posted. ALT has two accounts, \$30K Stewardship Fund for improvement of the Woods (e.g., new trees to replace the Norway Maples), and \$10K for monitoring. These funds are not for maintenance, which will be performed by the owners.

Chapnick/Coleman motioned to select Mr. Nonni and Ms. J. White to serve as the representatives on this working group; motion passed unanimously.

9pm **Discussion** – Mt. Gilboa, off-leash dog signs

Mr. D. White distributed a brochure on the off-leash dog program that is currently ongoing for other selected properties around town administered by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mt. Gilboa (as conservation land) is not included in this program nor does the current Town bylaw give the Conservation Commission equivalent authority. This issue comes up because the Animal Control officer has asked for clarification of the off-leash policy at Mt. Gilboa so that it can be posted. We decided to continue with the current policy of not allowing off-leash dogs on conservation land. This issue may be revisited in the future, but would require Town Meeting revision of the bylaws and thus seems unlikely.

9:15 Discussion – Master Plan for natural resources

The comments are due by June 7.

Commission Business (cont.):

Mr. Whelte reported on a court case between the family members of the owner of the parcels on **Coolidge Rd**, and ongoing bankruptcy proceedings.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator